MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

22 MAY 1981

Lebanese Crisis

Begin Interview--The Israeli Government Press Office has issued the transcript of replies by Prime Minister Menahem Begin to questions posed by NBC. In it Begin elaborated on the meaning of Israel's demand for a restoration of the status quo ante in Lebanon, saying that this requires that the Syrians remove not only their missiles in Lebanon but also the additional missiles that they have deployed on the Syrian-Lebanese border and that Syria give Israel a commitment that it will not use its missiles against Israeli planes overflying Lebanon. He also said the Syrians must withdraw from Mt Sannin and lift their seige of Zahlah. Begin also dismissed the idea that Israel would be willing to accept a trade-off whereby Israel would limit its overflights of Lebanon in return for a Syrian withdrawal of the missiles. U.S. Special Envoy Philip Habib had not made any such proposal, Begin went on, and had he done so Israel would have rejected it immediately. He said Israel and the United States have the same stand on the issue of the restoration of the status quo ante, and he praised Philip Habib's abilities, although he added that the U.S. envoy has not yet achieved any results. Begin also explained to the American people that Israel's overflights of Lebanon are a matter of life and death for Israel, allowing it to attack and demoralize Palestinian "terrorists" and thereby render them incapable of attacking Israel. The Israeli prime minister strongly denied that he is exploiting the missile crisis for electoral purposes, describing any such suggestion as insulting.

Another Government Press Office release clarified Begin's remarks on the Syrian missiles, stating that the prime minister meant that Syrian missile batteries stationed on the Syrian-Lebanese border before the crisis erupted might remain but that Syria must undertake not to use these remaining batteries against Israeli aircraft overflying Lebanon for reconnaissance purposes. Jerusalem radio, citing Israeli political sources, said Israel will agree to a Phalangist withdrawal from the Sannin area and will undertake not to attack Syrian units in Lebanon if Syria accedes to Prime Minister Begin's demands.

Syrian Comment--According to SANA, the daily AL-BA'TH said Begin's conditions in his latest interview can only be understood as a declaration of war. AL-BA'TH described Begin's call for a withdrawal of missiles from Syrian territory as well as from the Al-Biqa' valley as a crazy condition that defies the simplest rules of logic and reason. The missiles will stay to defend Lebanon even if they give Begin sleepless nights or dash his illusions, AL-BA'TH concluded. Damascus radio reported that the daily TISHRIN said the reconnaissance activities of an Israeli plane downed recently over Latakia prove that Israel is preparing for a "comprehensive aggression" against Syria without confining itself to Lebanon. The decision to launch such an aggression has already been made, TISHRIN went on, asserting that Israel aims to exploit the mission of Habib, possibly with the connivance of the United States itself.

Habib Mission--Jerusalem radio reported that after a meeting with Philip Habib, Israeli Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres said that the situation is still serious but that Habib has managed to obtain more time to continue his diplomatic efforts. According to IDF radio, the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee saw very little, if any, progress in Habib's most recent shuttle to Damascus. The only significant achievement, IDF radio reported, was that Habib will probably undertake another round of mediation. According to Beirut radio, Habib arrived in Beirut this morning. Earlier, Jerusalem radio said Habib did not have anything left to do in Israel and was simply awaiting an invitation to return to Syria.

Military Situation--Violent artillery and rocket exchanges erupted along the Beirut contact lines during the evening of 21 May, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. However, the capital was calm this morning, according to Beirut radio. The Voice of Lebanon also reported further Syrian sniper fire at Zahlah and Qa'ar-Rim and said 42 Syrian vehicles entered Lebanon late in the evening. The UAE newspaper AL-KHALIJ reported that 15 French and Italian helicopters have been shipped to the Christian-held port of Juniyah to reinforce the Phalangists. AFP, citing correspondents in the Al-Biqa' valley, reported that Syrian forces fired SAM missiles at an Israeli reconnaissance plane, shooting it down. Monitored Syrian media have not reported any such incident, and an IDF spokesman, cited by Jerusalem radio, called the report nonsense and said the Syrians had not fired any missiles at Israeli planes over Lebanon.

Arab Foreign Ministers Conference--According to Beirut radio, Lebanese Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus said before his departure for Tunis that he has no working paper on the Lebanese crisis but that there are views, ideas and stands that Lebanon will inevitably adopt. He stressed that Lebanon cannot shoulder the burdens and consequences of Israeli aggression alone. Damascus radio reported Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's arrival in Tunis at the head of the Syrian delegation. According to the Voice of Palestine, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left for Tunis, while Faruq Qaddumi, reported earlier to be the head of the PLO delegation, arrived in Tunisia. Damascus radio cited the daily TISHRIN as saying that there is one major goal for the Arab foreign ministers: the determination of stands and roles in line with the current situation and in response to Syria's needs. TISHRIN said the ministers are called upon to lay the necessary bases for bolstering Syria's steadfastness in its confrontation with Israel.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

In reportage on recent military activity, Tehran radio reported that coordinated operations were carried out along the Shush-Allaho Akbar-Susangerd front, that territory was recaptured and that an Iraqi brigade was destroyed in the area. The radio said some 555 Iraqi soldiers were taken as prisoners of war and nearly 300 enemy soldiers were killed. In a message to Brig Gen Valiollah Fallahi, acting chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces, carried by Tehran radio, President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr congratulated him on "the greatest victory to date." According to the message, Iran suffered its fewest casualties since the war began and the enemy suffered its greatest casualties and losses. A guard corps statement, carried by Tehran radio, reported 400 Iraqi soldiers were taken prisoner in the Allaho Akbar area, 300 Iraqis were killed and 350 taken prisoner in the western sector of Susangerd, and 126 were taken prisoner in the Shush region. According to the radio, fighting and an exchange of artillery and heavy weapons fire continued on western and other fronts. An Iraqi Armed Forces General Command communique, carried by INA, reported that a battle against Iranian soldiers in the Susangerd area is continuing. It claimed that the Iranians have lost 68 men, while admitting the loss of 6 on the Iraqi side. It did not mention the taking of prisoners by either side.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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KESHTMAND RECEIVES TADZHIK EDUCATION MINISTER

LD201056 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 May 81

[Excerpt] This afternoon, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politiburo, vice chairman of the Revolution Council and deputy prime minister, received Rauf Dadaboyev, minister of education of the Tadzhik SSR, and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was also attended by senior lecturer Dr Fawir Mohammad Ya'qubi, acting minister of education and training. The meeting, held in an atmosphere of friendship and cordiality, discussed the deep friendship between the people of the DRA and of the USSR and also discussed cultural ties between both countries. An agreement on scientific and methodological cooperation between the DRA teacher training academy in Kabul and the State Pedagogic Institute of Tashkent was signed this afternoon in the Ministry of Education and Training. The agreement was signed and the documents exchanged by the director of the Kabul teacher training academy and the director of the Tashkent State Pedagogic Institute in the presence of Dr Ya'qubi and Minister Dadaboyev.

The BAKHTAR correspondent reports that after the signing of the agreement, Dr Ya'qubi and Minister Dadaboyev discussed friendly relations between the DRA and the USSR. Dr Ya'qubi presented the guests with gifts made in Afghanistan.

Minister Ends Visit

LD210912 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 May 81

[Text] Rauf Dadabayev, minister of education and training of the Tadzhik SSR, and his entourage left Kabul today for home after an official and friendly visit here. Dr Faqir Mohammad Ya'qubi, acting minister of education and training; the second deputy minister; staff members of the ministry and members of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul bade farewell to the Tadzhik SSR delegation at Kabul International Airport.

The Tadzhik minister, in an interview with the BAKHTAR correspondent prior to his departure, appraised his visit as beneficial for the further expansion of friendly relations and cooperation. He said: I visited training and educational institutes during my stay in Kabul; it is pleasing that the foundation of a new system of education and training has been laid in revolutionary Afghanistan. He assessed the results of his talks with the relevant Afghan authorities on the expansion of cooperation between both countries as valuable.

RATEBZAD ADDRESSES KABUL CITY PIONEERS 20 MAY

LD202242 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 May 81

[Excerpt] Dr Anahita Ratebzad, PDPA Central Committee Politburo member and member of the Revolution Council, met Kabul City Pioneers this morning in the Amani school hall and conferred with them. Dr Ratebzad described the struggles of the PDPA, the situation in the country and conditions facing some children in the world.

BRIEFS

TRACTOR PURCHASE FROM USSR--In order to mechanize the country's agriculture and provide a congenial atmosphere in which the peasants, cooperatives and agricultural establishments may use modern agricultural machinery, a contract for the purchase of 200 tractors and spare parts was signed recently in Moscow between the DRA Agricultural Development Bank and the USSR Traktoreksport company. According to an Agricultural Development Bank spokesman, the tractors and spare parts will (?arrive) in 1981 via the ports of Turghondi and Hayranton. The bank's agencies in the provinces will put these tractors at the disposal of the country's cooperatives and farmers on a cash and credit basis. [Text] [Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 May 81 LD]

ZHAO ZIYANG TO BEGIN 4-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT 7 JUN

BK211628 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 May 81

[Text] Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang will pay a 4-day official and friendly visit to Bangladesh from the 7th of next month at the invitation of President Ziaur Rahman. According to an official announcement in Dacca today, Premier Zhao will arrive in Dacca from Katmandu on the morning of the 7th of June. His entourage includes: the minister of foreign trade, the vice minister for foreign affairs, the deputy secretary general of the State Council, the vice minister of economic relations with foreign countries, and other high officials and members of the media. During his stay in Bangladesh, the Chinese premier will have official talks with President Ziaur Rahman on international and regional issues of mutual interests and bilateral matters. Premier Zhao's visit, the first ever by a Chinese premier to Bangladesh after its independence, is expected to further widen and deepen the close relations between the two friendly countries. It may be recalled that Chinese Vice Premier Li Xiannian visited Bangladesh in 1978 and President Ziaur Rahman paid a state visit to China in July 1980.

BELGIAN KING BAUDOUIN ARRIVES ON STATE VISIT

BK201647 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 May 81

[Excerpts] King Baudouin of Belgium placed wreaths at the Jatiya Shahid Smriti Soudha at Savar this afternoon in tribute to the freedom fighters who laid down their lives for the independence of Bangladesh. Earlier on their arrival in Dacca on a 4-day state visit to Bangladesh, King Baudouin and Queen Fabiola were accorded a very warm welcome. President and Begum Ziaur Rahman were the first to receive them as they came out of their special Belgian airliner. A 21-gun salute heralded the arrival of the Belgian monarch. The Belgian king's 58-member entourage included Foreign Minister Charles-Ferdinand Nothomb, Cooperation and Development Minister Daniel Coens and Grand Marshal of Court Herman Liebraers.

PRESIDENT ZIAUR RAHMAN RECEIVES ROMANIAN MINISTER

AU201025 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 0945 GMT 20 May 81

[Text] Dacca, 20 May (AGERPRES)--Ziaur Rahman, president of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, received Ioan Avram, minister of the machine building industry, head of the Romanian delegation participating in the fourth session of the joint governmental commission of economic and technical cooperation between Romania and Bangladesh.

The interview occasioned a warm exchange of messages between Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu and the head of Bangladesh state. During the interview, the sides expressed satisfaction at the ascending course of the relations between Romania and Bangladesh and the joint interest in the further development of these relations setting out from the agreements reached during the summit dialogue.

The president of People's Bangladesh thanked sincerely for the support granted by Romania to his country in h r efforts for attaining economic development and social progress.

In the context, the sides highlighted the positive results of the fourth session of the joint commission of cooperation during which identified and established were fresh possibilities of mutually advantageous cooperation in fields of great economic importance.

Expressed was the conviction that the continuous strengthening of the relations of friendly cooperation between Romania and Bangladesh met the vital interests of the two peoples and made a contribution to the cause of international peace, collaboration and national independence. The sides considered that a wide convergence of ideas existed among the two states as regards the topical problems of the world policy.

Agreement Concluded

AU211054 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 0950 GMT 21 May 81

[Excerpt] Dacca, 21 May (AGERPRES)--The proceedings of the 4th joint government commission on economic and technical cooperation between Romania and Bangladesh concluded in Dacca.

The proceedings were presided over by Ioan Avram, minister of machine building industry, chairman for Romania of the joint commission, and by Saifur Rahman, minister of finance, chairman for Bangladesh of the commission. Fresh possibilities of expanding the bilateral economic cooperation were identified in order to further put into application the agreements convenanted on the occasion of the previous meetings of the presidents of the two countries.

Within the proceedings concluded were a long-term agreement on economic and technical cooperation between Romania and Bangladesh and a protocol of the session of the joint commission establishing a series of important objectives to be built in cooperation by Romania during the second development quinquennium of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. [Dacca Domestic Service in English at 1530 GMT on 20 May said the agreement signed was a "$250-million credit agreement" that constituted "the first installment of the total Romanian commitment of $500 million to help implement the country's second 5-year plan. Visiting Romanian Minister Ioan Avram and Finance Minister Saifur Rahman signed the agreement on behalf of their respective governments. Avram said the remaining $250 million will be given after full utilization of the first installment of the loan."]

Cooperation actions are stipulated in domains of vital economic importance such as the machine building industry, chemistry and petrochemistry, textile industry, transport, agriculture and food industry. It was also convenanted that Romania give assistance so that Bangladesh should gradually produce by cooperation means of transport such as buses, trucks, jeep-type cars, as well as fisher boats and drilling rigs for crude oil and water.

BRIEFS

BELGIAN AID ACCORD--Belgium has agreed to enter into a 5-year agreement under which it will provide Bangladesh with 1 billion Belgian francs. The amount will be utilized for development of agriculture, communications, energy and mining and other technical and social fields. The agreement was reached during the talks in Dacca yesterday between visiting Belgian Minister for Cooperation and Development Daniel Coins and Finance Minister Saifur Rahman. Officials said the Belgian side also agreed to begin a feasibility study on the exploration of coal in Jamalganj in July next. It was earlier scheduled to be undertaken in October this year. A team of Belgian experts will visit Bangladesh in this connection. During the talks, the Belgian minister showed keen interest in setting up two sugar mills and two distilleries in Bangladesh. He also agreed to explore further possibilities of joint venture in industrial sector. [Text] [Dacca Overseas Service in English 0445 GMT 21 May 81 BK]

SWEDISH GRANT ACCORD--Dacca, 21 May (AFP)--Bangladesh will receive a 280 million kroner (about $62.5 million) grant from Sweden under a two-year agreement signed here today for bilateral economic cooperation. The official agency BSS said half of the total amount (140 million kroner) will be for the first fiscal year for which the approval of Swedish parliament had already been received. The agreement was signed following three days of negotiations between a visiting Swedish delegation led by a senior official of the SIDA (Swedish International Development Authority), Mr Bo Goransson, and the Bangladesh side, headed by the section chief of the External Resources Division, Mohiuddin. Swedish assistance to Bangladesh since 1971 has totalled over 1,000 million kroner. During the last two fiscal years ending next month, Sweden provided Bangladesh 58 million kroner as grant and aid. [Text] [Hong Kong AFP in English 1056 GMT 21 May 81 BK]

GANDHI, MUGABE HOLD TALKS IN DELHI 21 MAY

BK211615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 May 81

[Text] At their talks in New Delhi today, visiting Prime Minister of Zimbabwe Robert Gabriel Mugabe and Mrs Indira Gandhi identified several areas of mutual cooperation. These include transportation, reorganization of railways in Zimbabwe, post and telecommunications, health and training facilities, trade and extension of credit facilities. Three agreements incorporating these are to be signed tomorrow.

Mr Mugabe, who arrived in the capital from Bombay this morning, met Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi privately for a short while. Soon thereafter, the two leaders had a 2-hour session, with both of them assisted by some of their cabinet colleagues and senior aides. Mr Mugabe was greatly appreciative of India's assistance and the role it played in Zimbabwe's struggle for freedom. He spoke in particular in glowing terms about what India has been doing internationally for decolonization.

The All-India radio correspondent recalls that Mrs Gandhi took time off to fly to Salisbury in April last year for Zimbabwe's independence despite pressing problems, as she had just settled down in her office after the elections.

At today's talks, Mr Mugabe described his visit as a touching gesture symbolizing the bonds of friendship between the two countries. Mrs Gandhi and the visiting dignitary discussed the international situation and exchanged their assessment of developments in their region. Mr Mugabe spoke about the latest situation on the Namibian issue and the developments in South Africa. Mrs Gandhi stressed the importance of cooperation among developing countries themselves and the need for them to make every effort for achieving self-reliance. Mr Mugabe's aides included the ministers for health, land and rural development, manpower planning, foreign affairs and trade. Mrs Gandhi was assisted by the ministers of commerce and education.

PDRY LEADER MAKES STATEMENT TO PRESS, DEPARTS

BK201624 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 May 81

[Text] South Yemen President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad said in New Delhi today that his talks with Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi were useful and had given positive results. In a statement to the press before explaining for Agra, he said the two countries had identical views on many issues. President Sanjiva Reddy, Mrs Gandhi and her Cabinet colleagues were present at the airport to see him off. In his statement, Muhammad expressed concern over the inflow of huge quantities arms into the region. In this context, he said he agreed with Indian efforts toward making the Indian Ocean a zone of peace and for strengthening the Nonaligned Movement.

Communique on Visit

BK211037 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0857 GMT 21 May 81

[Text] The following is the text of the joint communique issued at the end of the visit of 'Ali Nasir Muhammad al-Hasani, president of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY].

At the invitation of President of India Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, the secretary general of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, His Excellency 'Ali Nasir Muhammad paid a visit to India from May 17 to May 21. The visit took place in a warm and friendly atmosphere characteristic of relations between India and the PDRY.

The president of the PDRY and the prime minister of India had detailed discussions on matters of mutual interest and concern in the bilateral, regional and international sphere. They also discussed ways and means of further developing and consolidating relations between the two countries. These talks were held in an atmosphere of mutual cordiality, friendship and understanding. 'Ali Nasir visited some places of historical and cultural importance.

The PDRY delegation for discussions between the two sides consisted of the following: 1) 'Abdallah Ahmad al-Khamiri, alternate member of the Politbureau; 2) Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs; 3) Salih Moslih Qasim, member of the Central Committee, minister of home affairs; 4) 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali, member of the Central Committee, minister of health; 5) Husayn Council; 6) Ahmad 'Ubayd al-Fadli, minister of trade and supply; 7) 'Abdallah Hasan Abaddan, deputy of the Supreme People's Council and ambassador in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; 9) [as received] 'Abdallah Abudah Humam, director of Asia Department, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; 10) Abu Bakar Sa'id al-Abbad, charge d'affaires, the Embassy of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen in India.

The Indian delegation for discussions between the two sides consisted of the following: 1) Giani Zail Singh, minister of home affairs; 2) B. Shankaranand, minister of health and family welfare; 3) Kartik Cranon, minister of state for communications; 4) R.D. Sathe, foreign secretary; 5) Mir Nasrullah, additional secretary, the Department of Education; 6) B.K. Aroro, joint secretary, the Ministry of External Affairs; 7) D.K. Chatterjee, joint secretary, the Department of Economic Affairs; 8) T.S.R. Subramanian, joint secretary, the Ministry of Commerce; 9) Doctor D.N. Mishra, joint educational adviser, the Department of Education; 10) N.R. Verma, director, the Ministry of External Affairs; 11) S.K. Uppal, ambassador of India in Aden; 12) R.K. Bhatia, under secretary, the Ministry of External Affairs.

The president of the PDRY and the prime minister of India recalled the historical and traditional contacts between the two countries and the common experiences of the struggle against colonialism and for achieving independence.

The prime minister of India admired the achievement of the PDRY since independence for the economic and social development of the country.

The president of the PDRY expressed admiration for the progress achieved by India in the technological, industrial and agricultural sphere.

The president of the PDRY acquainted the prime minister of India with efforts being made by the Yemeni people to fulfill their aspirations for the reunification of North and South Yemen.

The two sides exchanged views on developments in the international sphere. In this regard, they affirmed the necessity of consolidating international peace and disarmament and the elimination of tensions in the world to achieve positive cooperation and peaceful coexistence among the countries of different socioeconomic systems.

The two sides discussed the developments in the Indian Ocean region and the causes leading to tension in the area. They called for the dismantling of all foreign bases in the region, for preventing the creation of new bases and condemned any attempts to build up foreign military presence in north ocean [as received] under any pretext whatsoever. The two sides reaffirmed the need to accelerate efforts for speedy implementation of the declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, as contained in the 1977 United Nations General Assembly resolution on this subject. In this context, they reiterated the determination to work for the success of the conference on the Indian Ocean, which is scheduled to be held in Sri Lanka later in 1981.

The president of the PDRY and the prime minister of India noted with grave concern the situation in the Middle East, which remained a source of great danger to peace and stability in the region.

They called for the immediate withdrawal by Israel from all occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem. They agreed that no solution to this problem could be found without the full participation on the Palestine Liberation Organisation as an equal partner in any negotiations. They also agreed that a durable solution to the problems could be achieved only through the restoration of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to a nation state of their own. They expressed great anxiety over the recent deterioration in the situation in Lebanon and expressed the hope that this issue will be soon resolved peacefully and that it would not be allowed to escalate into a wider conflict. They condemned the continuing violations of Lebanese sovereignty by Israel in defiance of the numerous resolutions of the United Nations.

The president of the PDRY and the prime minister of India expressed their deep concern and distress at the Iran-Iraq war and affirmed that a continuation of the present conflict would have grave implications for both regional and global peace and security. They expressed the hope that Iran and Iraq would resolve their differences in accordance with the principles of the Nonaligned Movement. The two sides also reiterated their support for the guidelines contained in the New Delhi declaration of the Nonaligned Foreign Ministers Conference of February 1981 for bringing about an early end to this conflict. The president of the PDRY expressed his solidarity and support to the efforts being made by the nonaligned group to restore peace to the region in pursuance of the New Delhi declaration of the Nonaligned Foreign Ministers Conference.

The two sides expressed the view that tension and confrontation in South Africa cannot be removed and peace cannot be established until the liberation of Namibia from the illegal occupation of South Africa and the dismantling of the structure of apartheid in South Africa are achieved. They reaffirmed their total support for the Namibian people's right to freedom and its solidarity with the struggle led by SWAPO, the sole legitimate and genuine representative of the Namibian people. They condemned all attempts by South Africa to subvert the UN plan for a peaceful settlement in Namibia, as contained in Security Council Resolution 435 (1978), and deplored the action of certain states which encouraged the apartheid regime of South Africa to persist in its intransigence and defiance of world opinion. They also condemned attempts by the Western powers to dilute the UN plan under the guise of revising it. They expressed the disappointment that these powers had vetoed a Security Council resolution for imposing mandatory sanctions against South Africa.

The president of the PDRY and the prime minister of India reaffirmed their faith in the policy of nonalignment and noted that the Nonaligned Movement represents the hopes and aspirations of the majority of mankind and has become an independent and positive force for world peace. They expressed the hope that through strict adherence to the principles of nonalignment and by stressing the common bonds which united and [as received] nonaligned countries, the movement would continue to subscribe to a common strategy and consensus which would reflect the real essence of nonalignment. In this connection, the two sides noted with satisfaction the success of the Conference of the Foreign Ministers of the Nonaligned Countries held recently in New Delhi, which also commemorated the 20th anniversary of the first summit conference.

While welcoming with satisfaction the new international strategy for the third development decade of the United Nations adopted by the General Assembly, both sides regretted that the global negotiations on international economic cooperation for development could not be initiated as scheduled. They expressed the hope that the present efforts to achieve an agreement would be successful and would result in the commencement of negotiations whose satisfactory conclusion would contribute to the implementation of the international strategy for development and would make a significant contribution to the establishment of the new international economic order. In this connection, the two sides also welcomed with satisfaction the initiative of some developing and developed countries for holding an international meeting on cooperation and development of the level of the heads of states and governments, which will contribute to a greater understanding of interdependence between nations and the interrelationship of problems of international economy.

The president of the PDRY and the prime minister of India expressed satisfaction that bilateral relations had been progressing smoothly. Both sides agreed that there was scope for further strengthening mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields. The officials of the two sides finalised and signed a cultural exchange agreement between the two countries. While expressing satisfaction at the cultural contacts being maintained by regular exchanges, they agreed to increase and diversify activities under the cultural exchange programme.

The PDRY side expressed deep appreciation of the assistance rendered by India under the ITEC programme for training of PDRY personnel, deputation of Indian experts to the PDRY and in other areas. The PDRY side expressed the hope that further Indian cooperation in this regard would be available in future. The Indian side assured that all endeavours will be made to meet current and future requests from the PDRY side under the ITEC programme and other bilateral arrangements.

The president of the PDRY thanked the president, government and people of India for the warm and cordial welcome accorded to him and for the generous hospitality extended to him and to members of his party during their visit to India.

The president of the PDRY extended to President of the Republic of India Neelam Sanjiva Reddy and to Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi an invitation to visit the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. These invitations were gladly accepted.

ALGERIAN MINISTER DISCUSSES INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION

BK210410 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 May 81

[Text] Cooperation in the fields of oil industry and pharmaceutical and engineering consultancy was discussed by visiting Algerian Minister Abdelhamid Brahimi and Petroleum Minister P.V. Sathe in New Delhi yesterday. Both the ministers stressed the need for strengthening the existing economic ties between the two countries. Mr Brahimi later called on Minister of State for Shipping and Transport Buta Singh. They discussed matters of mutual interest, particularly relating to shipping and transport.

REPORT ON SWITCH TO PRESIDENTIAL SYSTEM DENIED

BK201632 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 May 81

[Text] The government today categorically denied report appearing in a section of the press that a bill to usher in presidential form of government is under preparation.

A press release also said that no (?cell) has been set up in the Law Ministry to study the presidential system of government in other countries.

AIR INDIA REVOKES SUSPENSION OF 4 SABOTAGE SUSPECTS

BK211355 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 21 May 81

[Text] It was announced in Bombay today that Air India has revoked the suspension of four of its employees, aircraft maintenance engineers Kumar Ganesh and K.P. Raman and technicians Unnikrishnan and Bhupendra Patel, who were earlier suspended in connection with the sabotage of the airline's Boeing, Makalu. Meanwhile, a senior assistant technician was arrested last night following the recovery of a (?slip) from his house. The suspect, (Suresh Pandorani Namdas), the sixth person to be arrested in connection with the sabotage, has been remanded to 14 day's police custody.

INDIA REPORTEDLY TO BUY FRENCH MIRAGE FIGHTERS

BK201603 Hong Kong AFP in English 1248 GMT 20 May 81

[Excerpt] New Delhi, 20 May (AFP)--India has decided to go in for the French fighter-intercepter Mirage 2000 to meet the future requirements the Indian Air Force, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) news agency announced today.

Quoting defence sources, the agency said that a draft of protocol listing the terms and conditions of exchange of technology, sale of the aircraft, schedule of deliveries and mode of payment is now under the perusal of the Defence Ministry and the French company.

"The decision to go in for the French combat plane has been taken at the highest level after a series of vigorous and careful studies of all aspects of the aircraft by teams of aviation and defence experts, keeping in view the requirement of the air force during the late 80's and early 90's," the agency said.

The French manufacturers were prepared to share the research and development in connection with the manufacture of the advance version of the Mirage, PTI said.

"The initial requirement of the combat aircraft would be met by the French manufacturers till India created the infrastructure to undertake the production of this most sophisticated fighter-intercepter of the mid-80's within the country," PTI said quoting defence sources.

With the government's mind now made up on the French deal, it is evident that New Delhi will scrap part of the [figure indistinct] billion dollars deal with the British aerospace for the manufacture of the deep penetration Jaguar aircraft in the country, the agency said.

BRIEFS

PROTOCOL WITH USSR--On 21 May, India and the Soviet Union signed a protocol on cooperation in the field of meat and dairy industry and research. Rao Birendra Singh, agriculture minister, signed for India and USSR Minister for Meat and Dairy Industry Sergey F. Antonov for his country. Under the protocol, India has agreed to consider export of some items of quality dairy equipment, including cattle feed plants manufactured in India, to the Soviet Union. The Soviet side agreed to consider export of a solar grass drying plant to India. It was agreed that a team of Indian specialists in the field of fermented milk production, viz, acidified milk products, cheese and baby food manufacture, will go to the Soviet Union for training in the manufacture of such diversified milk products. The Soviet Union has agreed to assist India in the field of improving the quality of chocolate produced from locally produced cocoa. In the field of animal husbandry, India agreed to export foot and mouth disease vaccine to the Soviet Union. The two sides also agreed to exchange material and information relating to the quality regeneration of buffalo bulls and dairy animals. Both countries agreed to cooperate in the modernisation of existing slaughterhouses and the establishment of new slaughterhouses in India. For this, personnel working in Indian slaughterhouses will be trained in Soviet meat processing and animal byproducts utilisation plants. The possibilities of India obtaining stunning equipment for installation in slaughterhouses will be explored. The two sides agreed to identify new items of collaboration in the area of research in the meat and dairy industry. Such cooperation, it was pointed out, will be by means of exchange of scientists, exchange of details about meat and milk technology; exchange of scientific and technical literature in the area of meat and dariy science and the import and export of scientific equipment. [Text] [Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0947 GMT 22 May 81 BK]

ZIAUL HAQ ON FOREIGN POLICY, ARMS PURCHASES

BK211135 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 21 May 81

[Text] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq told visiting newspaper editors from Baluchistan Province in Rawalpindi today that Pakistan's foreign policy is independent, principled and of national interest. He also briefed the Baluchistan journalists, who called on him in Rawalpindi today, on Pakistan's stand for a political solution of the Afghan problem through a tripartite dialogue between Pakistan, Iran and the ruling party of Afghanistan under the aegis of the United Nations.

The president also informed them about Pakistan's efforts for the purchase of arms from the United States and said that it would not compromise Pakistan's position as a member of the Nonaligned Movement and the Islamic Conference. He emphasized that Pakistan was trying to get these arms solely for its security and it posed no danger to any country.

Turning to the internal situation, the president said the government wish to promote national integration through the exchange of visits by delegations from various walks of life like ulema, students, journalists and agriculturists. He said the government wanted these exchanges and contacts at every level.

The newspaper editors, while exchanging views with the president, decried the Indian propaganda against the acquisition of arms by Pakistan. They appreciated the government's efforts for the establishment of the Islamic system in the country, its development efforts as well as endeavors for the promotion of national integration. They said they were greeted with deep sentiments of brotherhood wherever they went in the Sind and the Punjab and they will convey their impressions to the people of Baluchistan through their publications. The newspaper editors, who have already visited Punjab and Sind provinces, will leave for Peshawar tomorrow.

FOREIGN MINISTER SHAHI PRAISES RELATIONS WITH PRC

BK211604 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 May 81

[Text] Foreign Minister Agha Shahi has said that Pakistan-China friendship is not against any country and in the words of late Prime Minister Zhou Enlai, this friendship is based on principles and above all consideration of interests. Shahi said this while addressing a reception in Islamabad this afternoon on the occasion of 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan. He said that as there existed a strong friendship between the two countries, they could work together for the promotion of peace and stability in the region and the world and could counter external aggression, hegemonism and expanionism.

Shahi said that Chinese Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang's visit to Pakistan, which he is due to make at the invitation of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, would further develop bilateral relations. He said that the visit was part of the process of continuous, high-level consultations between both countries.

PAKISTANI-INDONESIA COOPERATION MEETING ENDS

BK211136 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 21 May 81

[Text] Pakistan and Indonesia have decided to take effective steps for increasing mutual trade and cooperation in a number of fie ds. This has been stated in a joint communique issued at the end of the 2-day meeting of the Indonesia-Pakistan Economic and Cultural Cooperation Organization Ministerial Commission [IPEC] in Islamabad tonight.

The communique said the commission held a comprehensive exchange of views for collaboration between the two countries in the fields of trade, industries, agriculture, oil and gas technical assistance, shipping, banking, civil aviation, culture and mass media.

The commission identified factors inhibiting the growth of trade between the two countries and suggested positive measures to strengthen economic relations between them, particularly direct trading in tea, timber, cotton, rice and sugar plants. The commission took note of the trade imbalance against Pakistan and recommended that this imbalance should be rectified as soon as possible. It expressed satisfaction with the Indonesian Government's decision to purchase 50,000 tons of rice from Pakistan. It also appreciated the readiness of the cotton export corporation of Pakistan to allow pre-shipment inspection of raw cotton to be exported to Indonesia.

The commission noted with satisfaction that direct shipping service between Indonesia and Pakistan would be starting this month and hoped it will provide a great boost to the growth of trade between the two countries. The commission undertook an objective review of the regulations and procedures governing foreign investments in Indonesia and spelled out areas where collaboration in the industrial field between the two countries was feasible. It was decided that the next IPEC meeting will be held in [word indistinct] in Indonesia next year.

After the signing of the joint communique, Federal Finance Minister Ghulam Ishaq Khan told a news conference that apart from alike thinking on global problems, political and economic, the discussion showed a complementarity in the economies of the two countries.

He said the accord between them was in line with the present thinking and philosophy of the Third World.

He told a questioner that the present volume of trade between the two countries was $80 million. The commission had identified ways and means of overcoming the factors that inhibited the promotion of trade. From next year, they intended to eliminate the role of third party in trade between the two countries.

He said shipping service between Pakistan and Indonesia was expected to start from the 25th or 26th of this month.

Ghulam Ishaq Khan said civil aviation authorities of the two countries will examine the possibilities of establishing air service between Pakistan and Indonesia.

FURTHER DETAILS ON 21 MAY ALLAHO AKBAR VICTORY

Fallahi Details Operations

LD212150 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 14 May 81

[Text] According to a PARS report, Brigadier General Fallahi, acting chief of the Joint Staff, commented this evening on the latest victories of our forces against Iraq. He said: The coordinated and synchronized operations by the Islamic Republic of Iran's combatants were launched today at 0300 along a front nearly 100-km long, from Shush to Allaho Akbar and Susangerd. This surprise attack took place through the cooperation of the army, the revolution guards corps, the irregular operations staff command, the gendarmerie and other popular forces and ended around noon today.

He added: Our forces recaptured an area of about 20 km in the Allaho Akbar area and an area of about 4 km by 20 km in the Susangerd area. Some 555 POW's were taken. These POW's have already been evacuated. Moreover, nearly 300 of the invading troops were killed, with many more wounded left behind. An entire Iraqi brigade was also totally destroyed in the areas of Allaho Akbar and west of Susangerd. Furthermore, we also reacaptured a wide area in the Shush region from the aggressive enemy. Our forces, relying on God and the imam of the nation, enjoy high morale and are prepared to counter local assaults.

Bani-Sadr Congratulates Fallahi

LD212223 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 21 May 81

[Message from President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr to Brigadier General Fallahi, acting chief of the Joint Staff of the armed forces, on 21 May--read by announcer]

[Text] In His exalted name. Brigadier General Fallahi, acting chief of the Joint Staff of the armed forces: Today's victorious battle, planned so patiently and with such practical insight, has been carried out after observing all the principles of war taught by the Koran, and thus it brought the greatest victory to date to the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Quantitatively and qualitatively this war is a noble example of the unison between faith and science and of coordination among the army, the guards corps, the irregular forces, gen-armerie, police and other popular forces. It was an outstanding example of the troops' faith and valor and a mark of the victory of the Koranic course, the unification of faith and science and their utilization thereof.

During this battle the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran suffered the fewest casualties throughout the war and the enemy suffered the greatest casualties and losses: 555 POW's, 300 killed and a number of wounded and tens of tanks, which we ourselves saw burning. During this battle, our forces regained most of the territory from the clutches of the enemy.

Be kind enough to convey my appreciation to Brigadier General Khaza'i, acting chief of the ground forces; Col Ya'qub Hoseyni, deputy chief of the ground forces; Colonel 'Ata'i, in connection with the artillery's brilliant operations; Colonel Niaki, commanding officer, 92d Division, Khuzestan; Colonel Lotfi, commanding officer, 16th Division, Qazvin; Colonel Varshowsaz, commanding officer, 21st Hamzah Division, Tehran; Colonel Almasi, commanding officer, 3d Brigade, 92d Division; Colonel Jamshidi, commanding officer, 1st Brigade, 16th Division, Qazvin; Colonel Ja'fari, commanding officer, Infantry Brigade, 21st Hamzah Division; personnel of the air force; personnel of the aviation command of the ground forces; all the personnel of the Airborne Division, Shiraz; artillery officers; valiant commanders of battalions and all officers, NCO's and soldiers in all the units participating in the operations; Brother Rahim Safavi, commanding officer of guards corps operations in Khuzestan; and all combatants of the guards corps, the mobilization, Brother Dr Mostafa Chamran and the officers, NCO's and servicemen under his command.

Tell them that throughout the day we observed your valiant operations on the forward lines of the front and more than ever we were convinced that, owing to the force of your faith and valor, our Islamic Republic and Islamic homeland will endure in perpetuity.

It is essential during the next 2 days that you should recall all the commanders for consultations so that in accordance with the experiences gained from this victorious battle they might take all the necessary steps for achieving early victories.

May God Almighty grant greater victories to the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, God willing!

[Signed] Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, 21 May 1981

Khomeyni Cables Bani-Sadr

GF211829 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 May 81

[Text] Iman Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has sent the following cable to the president, Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr:

In His exalted name. His excellency the president of the republic: On the liberation of Allaho Akbar and the capture of a large number of Islam's enemies, I would like to convey my feelings of gratitude and admiration to the armed forces and the venerable commanders who triumphed over the satanic forces through harmony and coordination. You and these forces may rest assured that final victory has been decreed by God through the preservation of unity and coordination by the Islamic forces. May Almighty God help you.

[Signed] Ruhollah Mosavi Khomeyni, 21 May 1981

Communique 509

LD211842 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 May 81

[Communique 509 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The mighty heroes and the self-sacrificing combatants along the path of righteousness of the forces of Islam, made up of the combatants of the ground forces, the self-sacrificing guards, the gendarmerie fighters, the combatants of the police and other mobilization and people's forces, in a heroic battle and valiant attack on the Susangerd and Shush fronts and on the Allaho Akbar Heights, began a coordinated offensive in the early hours of this morning and dealt such a mortal blow and inflicted such a resounding defeat on the falling foe, who thought he could score victory and success by a full mobilization and by strengthening his trenches, that this will be a lesson to Saddam's Godless forces. They will know that this this morale, which is the crystallization of the light of faith and the manifestation of the divine light, crushes such elaborately costly installations and equipment and apparently impregnable trenches and demolishes and destroys those forces which shamelessly and mercilessly open a hail of shells on women and children in the cities. The superb morale of the combatants of Islam constitute a new chapter in the history of warfare. The warm welcome accorded to prisoners of war is an islamic feature in warfare.

During today's proud and epic-making operations, the combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the revolution guards, the gendarmerie and the other fighters o Islam occupied part of the Allaho Akbar Heights, which had been occupied by the aggressor forces of the Iraqi Army. Several hamlets were cleared of the enemy presence and some sensitive spots in those regions fell to the forces of Islam.

During these operations, some 35 tanks, a number of personnel carriers and vehicles, 2 ammunition dumps and 3 mortars were destroyed and more than 300 Iraqi servicemen were killed and about the same number were wounded with 550 Iraqis being taken prisoner. Vast quantities of equipment and materiel were captured from the enemy. With the succor of God the intrepid operations continue.

May it be possible, by the wish of the able, Almighty God, to bring to the attention of the loyal, combatant nation of Iran the full details of operations coupled with fresh successes gained by the Islamic forces in later communiques.

Fighting and an exchange of artillery and heavy arms fire continued sporadically on most western fronts and more intensely on the Ahvaz, Susangerd, Abadan and western Dezful fronts, an exchange of artillery and heavy arms fire continued, and on the Abadan and Khuninshahr fronts, thanks to fire opened by our units deployed in those regions, more than 10 enemy squad trenches and one-man foxholes, a number of tanks, a pontoon bridge, a boat and an ammunition dump were destroyed and an appreciable number of Iraqi Army servicemen were either killed or wounded.

Yesterday the enemy subjected the populated districts of Abadan and Dezful to a cowardly artillery and rocket fire, thereby inflicting losses and casualties on the populated districts and the citizens concerned.

In a series of clashes with the Iraqi Army forces, the gendarmerie combatants subjected the enemy positions to intensive fire from their heavy mortars and, as a result, an enemy supply depot, 12 squad trenches, 2 ammunition dumps, an observation post and a mortar were set ablaze and destroyed. During these operations, the detonation of enemy ammunition dumps could be heard for hours afterward.

Yesterday a number of aggressor Iraqi fighter aircraft, which intended to encroach on several border towns in the western and southern parts of the country, were forced to flee from antiaircraft fire of the combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

During all operations on 19 May, seven combatants from the ground forces and one from the navy were martyred.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Guards Corps Statement

LD212238 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 May 81

[Statement issued by the Command Council of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Excerpt] Following a series of coordinated and crushing operations by the guardians of the revolution, the heroic army and the self-sacrificing members of the revolution guards corps, we inform our Muslim compatriots of the following:

On the southern fronts, in the Allaho Akbar area, as a result of complete coordination among the Islamic combatants, one armored battalion and one mechanized company of the infidel forces were destroyed, with the area's heights being recaptured by the Islamic forces. In the course of these operations, more than 400 Ba'thist aggressive troops were taken prisoner by our forces.

In the western sector of Susangerd, the enemy forces stationed on the area's hills came under our brothers' heroic assault. As a result, one mechanized battalion was destroyed, with the Iraqi forces fleeing the battlefield, seeking refuge anywhere they could. So far more than 300 of Saddam's troops are reported to have been killed and more than 350 have been taken prisoner by our forces in these operations. Moreover, 20 tanks and vehicles belonging to the forces of the infidels were destroyed by our fire or taken as booty.

Similarly, in the Shush region, several areas where Saddam's troops were stationed have been cleared of them, with the area's heights having been completely recaptured. More than 126 Ba'thist soldiers were taken prisoner by our brothers. They include one of Saddam's divisional commanders. A fuller version of these operations will be announced in subsequent statements.

Captured Soldiers on Fighting

GF220703 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 22 May 81

[Excerpt] Following the arrival in Tehran of a group of Iraqi soldiers captured yesterday by the Islamic forces, one of the soldiers said that at least one Iraqi battalion was captured yesterday by the Islamic Iranian forces.

In an interview with the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, another Iraqi soldier said that most Iraqis are forced to go to the warfront against the Islamic revolution.

More than 550 Iraqi soldiers captured during yesterday's fighting were taken behind the frontlines yesterday.

In an interview broadcast by the Iranian radio network, a third Iraqi soldier said: We look forward to the day when Iraqi and Iranian soldiers are united in their efforts to topple the puppet regime of the tyrant Saddam in Baghdad.

The military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio ignored the capture of this large number of Iraqi soldiers yesterday by the valiant Iranian forces on the southwestern front.

BANI-SADR PUBLISHES OPEN LETTER ATTACKING RAJA'I

NC211626 Paris AFP in English 1619 GMT 21 May 81

[Text] Tehran, 21 May (AFP)--Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, continuing his attacks against Premier Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, today accused the premier of endangering the survival of the Islamic Republic and "destroying its economy."

In an open letter to Mr Raja'i, the president said the premier had come out with "lies" and "slander" in saying that the governor of the Central Bank of Iran was "incompetent" and "inefficient." The letter was published in the daily ISLAMIC REVOLUTION newspaper, which Mr Bani-Sadr founded.

Mr Raja'i knew nothing about the economy and had brought it to a halt through actions "based on personal tastes," Mr Bani-Sadr said.

"You have only one criterion for naming a minister--his opposition to the president of the republic," Mr Bani-Sadr said. "That would be unimportant if only you chose competent men."

Yesterday he called for a referendum to settle the premier's nine month campaign against Mr Bani-Sadr's government and accused the premier of wanting to "sweep him aside."

MAJLIS APPROVES BILL ALLOCATING APPOINTMENT POWERS

LD211416 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 May 81

[Excerpt] According to the Central News Bureau, the Islamic Consultative Assembly held an open session today during which it approved the details of the bill on the elimination of the phrase "royal decree" in the laws and regulations concerning the appointment of individuals to official positions.

According to the sole article of the bill, appointments of all officials which had been subject to royal decree until 11 February 1979 will--except in cases where, according to the Constitution of the Islamic Republic, they directly relate to the leadership [presumably Khomeyni] and the president--be made on the prime minister's or the relevant minister's orders, and in certain cases will be subject to the approval of the entire Cabinet.

1. Those laws and regulations which are contrary to the sole article and its points are abrogated as of the date of the approval of this law.

2. Ministries and all government establishments and banks that require mention in order for them to be covered by general regulations [as heard] are also covered by this law.

Also during today's Majlis session, proposals by deputies concerning the appointment of some officials were approved as follows:

1. The governor of the Central Bank and his deputy will be appointed on the recommendation of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, on the approval of the prime minister, on the endorsement of eligibility by the Majlis and on the order of the minister of economy and finance.

2. The head of the Red Crescent Society will be appointed on the recommendation of the Health Ministry, on the endorsement of eligibility by the Majlis health commission and on the order of the health minister.

3. The governors general will be appointed on the recommendation of the Interior Ministry, on the approval of the Cabinet, and on the order of the interior minister.

4. Appointments and dismissals in organizations affiliated to ministries will be made by the relevant ministers, except in the case of the Justice Ministry.

5. Appointments and dismissals in the judicial sector will be made on the proposal of one of the members of the Supreme Judicial Council in accordance with the law and on the approval of the Supreme Judicial Council.

6. Orders [presumably for appointments and dismissals] that fall under the jurisdiction of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran--in each of the three services--will be made on the recommendation of the commander of that service and on the approval of the commander in chief of the armed forces.

7. All appointments and dismissals which were once subject to royal decree and have not been reallocated above will be decided upon by the Majlis.

During today's Majlis session, in connection with the elections for constituencies that have no representatives, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: We do not know why the Interior Ministry has delayed these important elections; the elections act has been approved and the president has instructed the Interior Ministry (?accordingly).

ARMENIAN DEPUTY SPEAKS AT MAJLIS SESSION 21 MAY

GF211616 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 21 May 81

[Text] During today's Majlis session, the representative of Armenians in northern Iran spoke about the war Iraq has imposed on Iran and said: In this multifaceted war, Iran is a symbol for the world's oppressed peoples, while the Iraqi regime represents the hegemonic powers. If the superpowers are defeated--and they really have been defeated in this war that has been imposed on us--they will continue their aggressive intentions.

The Armenian representative has reiterated Armenian solidarity with the Islamic revolution.

Referring to the importance of establishing an independent Islamic economy that will achieve self-sufficiency without dependence, based on Islamic (?law) and social justice, he said: The continuation of the revolution requires basic changes in the content and social and economic nature of our society.

In his speech, the Armenian representative condemned the Israeli-Phalangist aggression against Lebanese Muslims and Christians and the Palestinian people. He said: The superpowers have tried repeatedly to exploit religious minorities in Iran. However, their plots have been foiled and thwarted through the vigilance of religious minorities and government officials.

RAJA'I COMMENTS AT BUSHEHR SEMINAR REPORTED

LD211441 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 May 81

[Text] The fifth joint seminar of the Council of Ministers and the governors general started work this morning in Bushehr with the participation of Prime Minister Raja'i.

Our reporter has sent the following report: At 0900 Prime Minister Raja'i, accompanied by other members of the Council of Ministers and by the Bushehr and Dashtestan deputies in the Islamic Consultative Assembly, arrived in Bushehr to participate in the fifth seminar of the nation's Council of Ministers and governors general. They were met by the commander of the navy, the Bushehr governor general, other governors general and local officials of Bushehr Province. The prime minister and his companions attended the joint meeting, which was convened in the offices of the Bushehr Governorate General.

At the start of the meeting Mr Raja'i spoke about current national issues and the economic situation. Referring to counterrevolutionary elements who stop development programs in the country, he said that the government will act decisively in the future against such minigroups or individuals who are stopping development programs.

In another part of his speech, he said that the cause of success is cohesiveness and mutual cooperation among the governors general and the revolutionary organizations. The stronger such unity becomes, the more successful the activities will become. Parallel with the growth of such unity and cooperation, counterrevolutionary activities will atrophy to nothing. Pointing to the people's role in governing the country, Mr Raja'i said that it is the people who are governing the country today, and as long as cooperation exists among people, we can be completely hopeful that the revolution will continue until completed in an acceptable way.

He then referred to the damages inflicted on the farmers by floods and other natural phenomenon and said: In the quarterly budget bill a sum has been allocated to pay farmers for damages suffered. This will be given to them following approval (?of the bill by the Majlis).

The prime minister of our nation then referred to the problem of our war-stricken compatriots and asked the governors general to make a new effort to absorb the compatriots who have suffered from the war into provinces outside the war zone. Referring to the problems created by the war, he said that the government is ready to accept any problems and hardship in order to continue to do battle with honor.

Mr Zavare'i, the administration and financial deputy of the Interior Ministry, then said in a speech that five subjects form the agenda of the seminar. These are: budget and development programs, employment and economic affairs, political and security matters, managerial and organizational matters and the matter of the war refugees. In the first four instances, commissions have been formed and they are investigating various matters.

In the first session of the fifth joint seminar of the Council of Ministers and governors general, the suggestions and requests of the commission for budget and development programs were discussed and reviewed. According to our reporter, a number of the ministers have started to review the problems of the (?main government) departments in Bushehr Province.

TEHRAN PROSECUTOR WARNS MOJAHEDINE-E KHALQ

LD211912 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 May 81

[Statement issued by Tehran revolution public prosecutor]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Muslim and martyr-nurturing nation: Following the 10-point statement issued by the revolution prosecutor general concerning the country's political climate and freedom of activities by parties and groups, we inform the Muslim Iranian nation of the following points in light of available information:

1. Despite the 10-point statement issued by the revolution prosecutor general and recent statements by the imam of the nation and leader of the revolution on 25 May [as heard] the Mojahedin-e Khalq-e Iran organization is planning to stage a confrontation with the law by holding a rally with the cooperation of other groups, including Peykar, Cherikha-ye Fedai'yan-e Khalq--that is, the minority branch of that organization. This is based on calculated plans following the past few day's tensions created by their activities. What they have in mind is to create fresh anarchy in the society. Needless to say, true to their past methods, they intend to make use of all their possibilities; they would not even shrink from starting a movement in the names of their members' mothers, sisters or supporters.

The Tehran public prosecutor's office regards it as its duty to inform all individuals, particularly the uninformed members of that organization, that any meeting by them would be considered unauthorized and unlawful, unless the Mojahedin-e Khalq-e Iran organization clarifies its stance on the recent statement made by the imam of the nation and the 10-point statement issued by the office of the prosecutor general.

2. Should these conditions prove to be unacceptable, then the holding of any meetings would be tantamount to a clear violation of the law, in which case decisive measures would be taken to prevent the holding of any meetings by the organization, with the organizers of the meetings being held responsible for the consequences.

3. Meanwhile, it ought to be pointed out that the excuse made by the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization for refusing to take part in a free debate is nothing but a sham. What is at issue is (?reiteration) of the organization's centralization and its relevance to Sa'dati's dossier. They were summoned to court to clarify certain ambiguities; so far they have refused to report and explain certain points. Obviously, by complying with the summons and explaining the points raised, they could clarify their stance. We hope that through the help of the people we may be able to bring about revolutionary order in society.

[Singed] Seyyed Asadollah Lajvardi, Tehran revolution public prosecutor

GUARDS CORPS REPORTS KILLING 30 KDP MEMBERS

LD211750 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 May 81

[Text] According to a report by the Central News Bureau, the news staff of the revolution guards corps in Miando'ab has announced that yesterday in a guerrilla attack on a base of the members of the disbanded [Kurdish] Democratic Party in the village of Sari Qamish, situated 25 km from Miando'ab, 30 members of the party were killed.

According to this report, the brother guards returned to their bases safely after carrying out this operation.

SHIRAZ CITIZENS ASKED TO DONATE GUNNY SACKS

GF211853 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 21 May 81

[Text] A number of gunny sacks are needed to build trenches on the battlefront. The mobilization department of the Shiraz Revolution Guards Corps has asked Muslim families to bring their empty gunny sacks to this office on Zand Avenue.

NVOI ASSAILS BANI-SADR ON ATTITUDE TOWARD USSR

TA202021 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 20 May 81

[Unattributed commentary: "One Cannot Fight Realities"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: The counterrevolution, the compromising liberals, the American Maoists and the extreme leftists and rightists--parallel with various provocations and propaganda, terror and the planting of bombs and [words indistinct] other satanic schemes--have consistently strived and continue to strive to weaken the Iranian revolution and to separate it from the backing of sincere friends and natural allies, and to somehow bring about the necessary conditions to overthrow the revolutionary government and to bring to power a liberal government, and ultimately to bring U.S. imperialism back to Iran.

One of the levers to which the counterrevolution resorts in attempting to implement its satanic schemes is the fanning of hostile and false propaganda against the Soviet Union, our neighboring country, the friend and supporter of the Iranian nation's revolution. Even the enemies of Iran acknowledge that because of the Soviet Union's presence in the vicinity of our liberated country U.S. imperialism has been unable to implement its anti-Iranian plans. It is an undeniable fact that since the first days of the Iranian nation's revolution the Soviet Union has been at the side of our homeland's people and has defended their popular, antiroyalist and anti-imperialist struggles. Therefore, since the outset of the Iranian revolution's victory, the overt and covert mercenaries of U.S. imperialism have attempted to distort the facts and, in order to exonerate U.S. imperialism, they strived to place this world devourer on the same level with the socialist country.

When we review in general the activity of the compromising liberals after the revolution, we see that all their efforts were aimed at removing U.S. imperialism as the primary enemy from the scene and replacing it with the Soviet Union. It is not accidental that, for example, the MIZAN newspaper of the liberals, whose pages are full of anti-Soviet items fabricated by imperialist news sources, especially American, presents the country's true revolutionary forces and the Soviet Union as the enemy. However, it allegedly forgets to mention the name of the United States, which the imam recognizes as the principle enemy of the Iranian nation.

Of course, Bani-Sadr's ENQELAB-E ESLAMI newspaper as well is not far behind the writers of MIZAN in this connection, and Mr Bani-Sadr himself, also, in "The Diary of a President" published in this newspaper acts in that self-same style of his allies. In one of these diaries he talks about a so-called report handed to him concerning Soviet policy toward Iran. Of course, Bani-Sadr does not say that this so-called report was prepared in the arsenal of the U.S. CIA and has reached him through certain channels. However, through a brief look at the text of this so-called report one can readily comprehend by which persons, where and for what aims this document was prepared and compiled.

Through these discord-making and enemy-creating writings, Bani-Sadr has not discovered anything new.

The people of our homeland have heard through what has been briefly revealed in the course of Amir Entezam's trial how Mehdi Bazargan, the prime minister of the provisional government, repeatedly referred to American officials in Tehran and requested them to put at his disposal the necessary documents about the so-called suspicious activities of the Soviet Union in Iran. It is not unlikely that Bazargan's American friends have finally put these so-called documents through certain means at the disposal of Bani-Sadr, the ally of Bazargan, so that he could exploit them to divert the people's opinions, to relieve U.S. imperialism from blows and to create an illusive enemy. However, Bani-Sadr, too, like his liberal and pro-American friends in the country, is wrong. Our homeland's people can no longer be deceived by these falsehoods fabricated by U.S. and Western espionage and intelligence organizations.

The Iranian people have recognized their friends and foes quite well, and have observed and continue to observe through experience that the Soviet Union and socialist countries were at the side of our nation during the most difficult days of the struggles of the Iranian nation. The people of our homeland know quite well that the Soviet Union congratulated with enthusiasm and warmth the victory of the Iranian nation's revolution, and announced its support for the Muslim Iranian people. Incidentally, it is this very fact that is not to the liking of world-devouring America and does not suit the taste of the liberals and their allies, such as Bani-Sadr. However, what can one do? This is an existing reality and one cannot fight realities.

NVOI CRITICIZES RAJA'I ON FOREIGN POLICY

TA220641 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 21 May 81

[Unattributed commentary: "One Should Have a Serious Attitude Regarding the Country's Foreign Policy"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: The prime minister recently held an interview with a correspondent of KEYHAN in which he explained his views regarding Iran's foreign policy. The prime minister's statements and the manner in which the country's foreign policy principles were raised by him have rightly aroused the astonishment and regret of all the true forces of the revolution and those faithful to the imam's popular and anti-imperialist line.

If the issue of the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran had been raised by certain politicians, like Bazargan and his liberal colleagues, in the same manner that Raja'i has raised it, there would not have been cause for astonishment or for complaint and concern. However, the principles of the country's foreign policy are being propounded by a head of government who regards himself as the opponent of the liberals' line, the enforcer of the imam's guidelines and committed to the Iranian revolution's popular and anti-imperialist line on the basis of the self-same views of the liberals,on a range of prejudiced ideas and mental prejudgments and on the basis of distorting the world's existing realities.

At the very outset, Raja'i emphasizes the point that Iran's foreign policy is based on the famous principle of "Neither East nor West," and starts the discussion from here. Up to now we have repeatedly heard from many of our country's government figures that they allegedly support the policy of "Neither East nor West." However, none of these gentlemen have to date told the people what their aim is in propagating this self-invented "Neither Eastern nor Western" term. How do these gentlemen understand this phrase and what do they want to say?

We and all the true forces of the revolution have repeatedly said that the foreign policy of our homeland should be divorced from any kind of dependence, and that the establishment of good relations and extensive cooperation should be solely on the basis of respect to the national sovereignty, independence and mutual interests of our country with the other countries of the world.

The imam has said many times that in this world no country is free of the need for having contact with other countries, and the important thing is that in our relations with other countries there should be no dependence. Now, one should ask the gentlemen who, wittingly or unwittingly, are mouthing the slogan of "Neither East nor West" day and night like Chinese sheets and American chewing gum: What is your aim from this term? If the aim is other than that comprehended by the people and the forces committed to the revolution, then why do you not discuss it openly with the people?

The explanations of the prime minister regarding the so-called principles of the country's foreign policy clarifies to some extent his rigid stance in this connection. Thus, in his explanations regarding the problem under discussion, he also suggests a fourth world on the basis of the notorious principle of the presence of [word indistinct], which is based on the notorious theory of the Maoists, which by itself is some kind of an initiative. However, regrettably it is a baseless initiative. The prime minister divides the countries of the world into four groups. The first group consists of the fraternal countries that accept the Islamic revolution of Iran 100 percent, and their attitude is on this basis. The second group contains friendly countries whose nations believe in Islam but whose governments do not serve the interests of their nations 100 percent. The third group contains the nonaligned countries, whose governments and nations are not Islamic but who, nevertheless, are striving to be independent of the superpowers. Iran will have normal ties with these countries. Then Mr Raja'i says that those countries that struggle against the Islamic regime are foes. This struggle could be military, like the war imposed on Iran, or political like that waged by the United States and the Soviet Union.

Such a mixed-up division by itself is indicative of the bitter fact that some of our country's government figures do not have the serious attitude that a revolutionary government should have within the context of a revolutionary viewpoint toward the country's sensitive problems. One should ask the prime minister, for example, which countries do you mean by the countries of the first group that accept the Islamic revolution 100 percent? In the view of the prime minister, if a certain un-Islamic country or nation sincerely supports the Iranian revolution and is prepared to help and cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran on the basis of respect toward Iran's national sovereignty and independence, can this country be among the first group, the fraternal countries? Unfortunately, from the viewpoint of our country's prime minister, the answer to this question is negative. It seems as though that for some of our country's government figures the form and the principle of sincere support for the Iranian revolution by this or that country is not under consideration. Rather, the issue under consideration is separating Iran in various ways from its real friends in the international arena, and placing at any price the Soviet Government--our next-door neighbor, a country that supported the Iranian revolution, that on the eve of the revolution warned the United States that it has no right to interfere in Iran's affairs, and that during the whole period following the revolution repeatedly defended in word and deed revolutionary Iran and the Islamic Republic of Iran against the threats and plots of the counterrevolution, the United States and its allies--at the side of aggressive America and the enemy of the Iranian revolution. This is truly regrettable.

If the Entezams, Qotbzadehs, Bazargans and the multicolored [word indistinct] of the liberals and American Maoists up to this very day raise foreign policy within this framework, which ultimately is to the benefit of the interests of world-devouring America, they have a certain calculation which is obvious to all, including our country's officials and high-ranking government figures. However, how can such a light attitude and repetition of the decayed and wornout views of the Maoists--fabricated in the propaganda arsenal of the United States--by government figures and those who claim to be followers of the imam's anti-American and anti-Imperialist line be interpreted?

Such an attitude toward the country's foreign policy and such baseless and pseudo-Maoist divisions, in connection wtih determining the principles of the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic, are below the dignity of the Iranian revolution and the imam's principled line. One should not fall into the trap of the compromising liberals on the basis of mental prejudgments, superficiality and blind fanaticism.

SRI LANKA

FOREIGN MINISTER ASKED TO SEEK ASEAN MEMBERSHIP

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[Text] Colombo, 20 May (AFP)--Sri Lanka will seek membership of the Association of Southeast Asian Countries (ASEAN).

The government today decided to ask Foreign Affairs Minister A.C.S. Hameed to take such steps as are necessary in consonance with the procedures of the ASEAN.

The Cabinet, at its weekly meeting today, discussed a report submitted by Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa on his recent tour of the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.

President J.R. Jayewardene pointed out that on March 1, 1961 (five years before ASEAN was established), he had moved a resolution in Parliament that the government should either by conference or negotiations between the countries of South East Asia, namely Burma, Ceylon, Indonesia, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, and Singapore, initiate the inauguration of an integrated plan for industrial development of the area and for the purchase and sale of raw and manufactured products processed by them.

This had been moved by President Jayewardene on that date as a private member's motion and had been accepted by the house.

Prime Minister Premadasa recommended to the Cabinet that special steps be taken to promote trade between Sri Lanka and the countries he had visited during his recent tour--Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines.

Mr Premadasa suggested that trade and payment agreements should be entered into with those countries; that joint committees of officials on both sides be appointed to identify areas of trade which can be increased and new commodities that can be exchanged; explore the possibilities of joint ventures where Sri Lanka entrepreneurs can cooperate with the nationals of ASEAN countries; examine the possibility of barter and swing credit with these countries. The government accepted these suggestions.